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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0560

Comment submitted by Cory Trissel, Partner, Trissel Farms Inc.

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: Cory Trissel- Partner

Organization: Trissel Farms Inc.

General Comment

Docket Id# EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

To Whom it may Concern,

I am a third generation dairy/poultry farmer in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I am thirty two years old with a wife and three children, and I am deeply concerned with the impact future regulations will have on my ability to survive as a farmer. I recently met with a representative of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and he told me that they did not want regulations that would put farmers out of business; they want to work with us to continue improving agriculture in the valley and keeping the environment healthy. I am willing to follow their suggestions to fence out our livestock from our farm pond improving water quality.

My concern with the EPA is that it not mandate regulations neither I nor my farming neighbors will be able to absorb. We had a brutal year of financial losses in 2009 and dairy profits at best require years of saving and planning for facility upgrades. Another concern that I have is with any phosphorus (manure) application bans. My grandfather, father, and I have worked hard over the years to increase the fertility of our limited soils through natural manure applications instead of chemical fertilizers. I would hate to think that our hard work would end up a major liability.

I only ask that the EPA have enough respect for the farming community, that it not let my future be decided by lawyers and politicians, but rather trusted and respected agricultural representatives.

Respectfully,
Cory Trissel